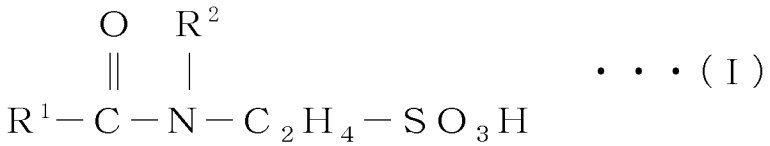
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Aqueous suspensions of cross-linked silicone particles comprising :

(A) cross-linked silicone particles with an average particle size of from ~~0.1~~ 0.5 to 500 μm,

(B) N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines represented by the general formula (I);



$$R^1-\overset{\overset{O}{\|}}{C}-N(\overset{\overset{R^2}{|}}{\ })-C_2H_4-SO_3H \qquad \cdots (I)$$

(where R^1 and R^2 stand for unsubstituted or substituted monovalent hydrocarbon groups) and/or their salts, and

(C) water.

2. (Previously Presented) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 1, wherein component (A) comprises cross-linked silicone particles containing non-crosslinkable oil.

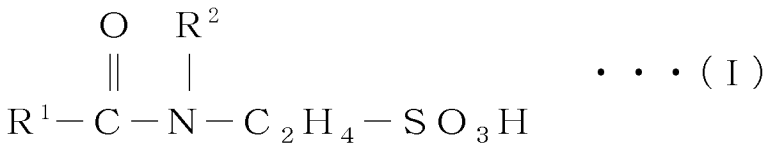
3. (Original) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 1, wherein component (A) accounts for from 25 to 80 % by weight, component (B) accounts for from 0.001 to 20 % by weight, and component (C) accounts for from 5 to 75 % by weight.

4. (Currently Amended) Aqueous emulsions of oil containing cross-linked silicone particles comprising :

(A) cross-linked silicone particles with an average particle size of from ~~0.1~~ 0.5 to 500 μm,

(D) oil,

(B) N-acyl-, N-hydrocarbon taurines represented by the general formula (I)



(where R^1 and R^2 stand for unsubstituted or substituted monovalent hydrocarbon groups) and/or their salts, and

(C) water,

with component (A) contained in droplets of component (D) dispersed in water.

5. (Original) The aqueous emulsions according to claim 4, wherein component (D), which contains component (A) accounts for from 25 to 90 % by weight, component (B) accounts for from 0.001 to 20 % by weight, and component (C) accounts for from 5 to 75 % by weight.

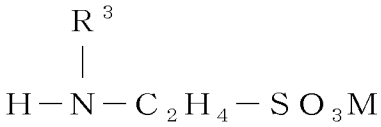
6. (Previously Presented) Cosmetic raw materials comprising the aqueous suspensions according to claim 1.

7. (Previously Presented) Cosmetic raw materials comprising the aqueous emulsions according to claim 4.

8. (Previously Presented) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 1, wherein component (B) is selected from the group of sodium N-lauroyl methyl taurine, sodium N-myristoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-oleoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-stearoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, potassium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine,

magnesium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, sodium N-palmitoyl methyl taurine, potassium N-stearoyl methyl taurine, potassium N-cetyloyl methyl taurine, and combinations thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 1, wherein component (B) is further defined as a salt represented by the general formula

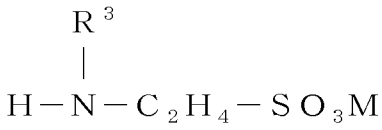


(where R^3 stands for a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, and M is an alkali metal).

10. (Previously Presented) The aqueous suspensions according to claim 9, wherein the salt is selected from the group of sodium taurine, sodium N-methyl taurine, and combinations thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) The aqueous emulsions according to claim 4, wherein component (B) is selected from the group of sodium N-lauroyl methyl taurine, sodium N-myristoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-oleoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-stearoyl methyl taurine, sodium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, potassium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, magnesium N-coconut fatty acid methyl taurine, sodium N-palmitoyl methyl taurine, potassium N-stearoyl methyl taurine, potassium N-cetyloyl methyl taurine, and combinations thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The aqueous emulsions according to claim 4, wherein component (B) is further defined as a salt represented by the general formula



(where R^3 stands for a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group, and M is an alkali metal).

13. (Previously Presented) The aqueous emulsions according to claim 12, wherein the salt is selected from the group of sodium taurine, sodium N-methyl taurine, and combinations thereof.